

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication apparatus comprising:

multi-address transmission means for executing  
ring type multi-address transmission in a group of the  
communication apparatuses; and

determination means for making determination as  
to specifying of the ring type multi-address  
transmission,

wherein, when the ring type multi-address  
transmission is specified, said multi-address  
transmission means memory-receives received data and  
transmits the memory-received data to a next station  
after the data is actually printed out.

2. A communication apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein said multi-address transmission means  
transmits the memory-received data to the next station  
based on specification from an operator.

3. A communication apparatus according to claim  
1 or 2, wherein said multi-address transmission means  
transmits the memory-received data to the next station  
after the data is printed out, based on specification  
from the operator.

4. A communication apparatus according to any  
one of claims 1 to <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>, wherein said multi-address

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transmission means includes selection means for selecting, based on specification from the operator, transmission of the memory-received data to the next station, alternatively transmission of the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out.

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5. A communication apparatus designed to perform ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station, comprising:

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receiving means for receiving data sent by the multi-address transmission;

selection means for selecting transfer/non-transfer of the received data to the next station based on instruction from a user; and

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transferring means for transferring the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is selected based on the instruction from the user,

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wherein said transferring means forcibly transfers the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user.

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6. A communication apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

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displaying means for displaying presence/absence  
of the received data;

storing means for storing the received data; and

printing means for printing the stored data,

5 wherein if data sent by the multi-address  
transmission is received, said storing means stores  
time of reception thereof, and said displaying means  
displays presence of the received data, and if the  
transfer to the next station is in an unselected state  
10 for a specified period by instruction from the user,  
said printing means forcibly prints the received data.

7. A communication apparatus according to claim  
5 or 6, further comprising:

15 starting means for starting the multi-address  
transmission; and

registration means for registering data  
regarding the next station.

20 8. A communication apparatus according to claim  
6, further comprising:

erasing means for erasing the transferred data  
from the storing means if the transfer of the received  
data is normally finished.

25 9. A communication apparatus according to any  
one of claims 6 <sup>and</sup> 8, wherein said printing means

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prints the reception of the data sent by the multi-address transmission and the transfer of the received data to the next station simultaneously when executing the forcible printing of the received data.

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10. A communication method comprising the steps of:

executing ring type multi-address transmission in a group of the communication apparatuses; and making determination as to specifying of the ring type multi-address transmission,

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wherein, when the ring type multi-address transmission is specified, said multi-address transmission step memory-receives received data and transmits the memory-received data to a next station after the data is actually printed out.

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11. A communication method according to claim 10, wherein said multi-address transmission step transmits the memory-received data to the next station based on specification from an operator.

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12. A communication method according to claim 10 or 11, wherein said multi-address transmission step transmits the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out, based on specification from the operator.

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13. A communication method according to any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein said multi-address transmission step includes a selection step of selecting, based on specification from the operator, transmission of the memory-received data to the next station, alternatively transmission of the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out.

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14. A communication method designed to perform ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station, comprising the steps of:

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receiving data sent by the multi-address transmission;

selecting transfer/non-transfer of the received data to the next station based on instruction from a user; and

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transferring the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is selected based on the instruction from the user,

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wherein said transferring step forcibly transfers the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user.

15. A communication method according to claim

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14, further comprising the steps of:

displaying presence/absence of the received data;

storing the received data; and

5 printing the stored data,

wherein if data sent by the multi-address transmission is received, said storing step stores time of reception thereof, and said displaying step displays presence of the received data, and if the transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user, said printing step forcibly prints the received data.

16. A communication method according to claim 14 or 15, further comprising the steps of:

starting the multi-address transmission; and registering data regarding the next station.

17. A communication method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of:

erasing the transferred data stored in the storing step if the transfer of the received data is normally finished.

18. A communication method according to any one of claims 15 <sup>and</sup> to 17, wherein said printing step prints the reception of the data sent by the multi-address

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transmission and the transfer of the received data to the next station simultaneously when executing the forcible printing of the received data.

5           19. A storage medium to store a computer program for the implementation of a communication method comprising the steps of:

          executing ring type multi-address transmission in a group of the communication apparatuses; and  
10           making determination as to specifying of the ring type multi-address transmission,

          wherein, when the ring type multi-address transmission is specified, said multi-address transmission step memory-receives received data and  
15           transmits the memory-received data to a next station after the data is actually printed out.

20           20. A storage medium according to claim 19, wherein said multi-address transmission step transmits the memory-received data to the next station based on specification from an operator.

25           21. A storage medium according to claim 19 or 20, wherein said multi-address transmission step transmits the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out, based on specification from the operator.

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22. A storage medium according to any one of claims 19 to 21, wherein said multi-address transmission step includes a selection step of selecting, based on specification from the operator, transmission of the memory-received data to the next station, alternatively transmission of the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out.

23. A storage medium designed to perform ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station, comprising the steps of:

receiving data sent by the multi-address transmission;

selecting transfer/non-transfer of the received data to the next station based on instruction from a user; and

transferring the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is selected based on the instruction from the user,

wherein said transferring step forcibly transfers the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user.

24. A storage medium according to claim 23,

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further comprising the steps of:

displaying presence/absence of the received data;

storing the received data; and

printing the stored data,

wherein if data sent by the multi-address transmission is received, said storing step stores time of reception thereof, and said displaying step displays presence of the received data, and if the transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user, said printing step forcibly prints the received data.

25. A storage medium according to claim 23 or 24, further comprising the steps of:

starting the multi-address transmission; and  
registering data regarding the next station.

26. A storage medium according to claim 23, further comprising the step of:  
erasing the transferred data stored in the storing step if the transfer of the received data is normally finished.

27. A storage medium according to any one of claims 24 to 26, wherein said printing step prints the reception of the data sent by the multi-address

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transmission and the transfer of the received data to  
the next station simultaneously when executing the  
forcible printing of the received data.

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